

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 47-49 are now pending in the application, with Claims 47 and 49 being independent. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 47-49 have been added herein.

The specification was objected to because the Examiner suggested that the continuing data should be updated. The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to reflect that the parent application has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,325,492. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,325,492 (Koitabashi, et al.). This rejection is traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 47, the present invention relates to an ink jet printing apparatus using a printing head, which can perform large ejection in which relatively large amounts of ink are ejected and small ejection in which relatively small amounts of ink are ejected, to perform printing. The apparatus includes means for performing printing in a printing mode including a first mode in which the printing head is caused to perform only the large ejection, a second printing mode in which the printing head is caused to perform only the small ejection, and a third printing mode in which the printing head is caused to perform both the large ejection and the small ejection.

As is recited in independent Claim 49, the present invention relates to an ink jet printing method using a printing head, which can perform large ejection in which relatively large amounts of ink are ejected and small ejection in which relatively small amounts of ink are ejected, to perform printing. The method includes the step of performing printing in a printing mode including a first mode in which the printing head is caused to perform only the large ejection, a second printing mode in which the printing head is caused to perform only the small ejection, and a third printing mode in which the printing head is caused to perform both the large ejection and the small ejection.

Claim 24 of Koitabashi, et al. is directed to an ink-jet apparatus employing an ink-jet head capable of ejecting ink in varying ejection amounts in a plurality of steps. The claim recites preliminary ejection means for performing a preliminary ejection operation of the ink-jet head in a printing mode with a relatively large ejection amount and a preliminary ejection operation in a printing mode with a relatively small ejection amount. The claim further recites preliminary ejection interval setting means for setting an interval between preliminary ejection operations.

However, Claim 24 of Koitabashi, et al. does not recite performing printing in a printing mode including a first mode in which the printing head is caused to perform only large ejection, a second printing mode in which the printing head is caused to perform only small ejection, and a third printing mode in which the printing head is caused to perform both the large ejection and the small ejection, as is recited in independent Claims 47 and 49.

Thus, Claim 24 of Koitabashi, et al. fails to recite or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 47 and 49 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 47 and 49. Dependent Claim 48 is also allowable, in its own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 47. Individual consideration of the dependent claim is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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